LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

August 3, 2004

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

APPROVE AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, FUNDED UNDER THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996, ALLOCATE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT (FIFTH DISTRICT- 3 -VOTE MATTER)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve an alternative plan for expenditure submitted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to allow the Department to apply for $10,000 of Specified Funds for the Butte Valley Wildflower Sanctuary, Land Acquisition Project under Section (3), Subsection (a), Paragraph (1), Subparagraph (GG) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition).

2. Allocate Fifth Supervisorial District "County" Excess Funds in the amount of $67,000 to the Department for the Pearblossom Natural Area, Land Acquisition Project.

3. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation to award a grant to the Department when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the first action will allow the Department to apply for residual 1996 Proposition Specified Projects funding for the Butte Valley Wildflower Sanctuary, Land Acquisition Project. The project consists of the acquisition of 2.05 acres of land contiguous to the Butte Valley Wildflower Sanctuary, a 320-acre natural area located in the Hi Vista area of the Antelope Valley. The 1996 Proposition required recipient agencies of Specified Projects funding to expend or commit for expenditure those funds prior to June 30, 2003. The only method to commit 1996 Proposition Specified Project funds after the June 30, 2003, deadline, per the 1996 Proposition, is for the agency to request your Board to approve an alternative plan for expenditure for any applications subsequently submitted. Residual funds from the Specified Projects funding are available from completed projects in the Fifth Supervisorial District and it is recommended that your Board approve this alternative plan for expenditure.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of Excess Funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. It is recommended that $67,000 of "County" Excess Funds be allocated to the Department for the Pearblossom Natural Area Land Acquisition Project, which consists of 116.86 acres of natural lands north of the Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area in Pearblossom.

It is also recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award the Excess Funds grant, when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board. The Director will determine that the application for the funds is for a project eligible to receive District funding.

In two related items on the Board of Supervisors' agenda, the Department is requesting approval of the projects, including the allocation of $77,000 from the Regional Park and Open Space District and a recommendation by the Treasurer and Tax Collector to approve the agreement to purchase the properties.

Implementation of Strategic Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal 1 (Service Excellence), Goal 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) and Goal 6 (Community Service) by the acquisition of additional open space land in the North County area.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient funds for the projects are appropriated in the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's Assessment Project Fund (HB4) and the District's Excess Funds Fund (HD6) under Other Charges to fund the $77,000 identified for these projects:

- $10,000 in 1996 Proposition Specified funds under Section (3), Subsection (a), Paragraph (1), Subparagraph (GG)
- $67,000 in Fifth Supervisorial District "County" Excess Funds

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under the provisions of Section (5), Subsection (e), of the 1996 Proposition an alternative plan for expenditure must be submitted and approved to commit the funds allocated to specified projects after June 30, 2003. As of July 1, 2004, uncommitted Specified Project funds are subject to allocation to other projects by your Board.

The 1996 Proposition provides for an annual determination of the availability of Excess Funds and for allocation of such funds for capital projects in four categories. On June 8, 2004, your Board identified funds available for allocation to capital projects in Fiscal Year 2004-05.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds before they may receive grants of Excess Funds. Your Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award grants if all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by your Board but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year shall be available for allocation by your Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved a Procedural Guide on June 17, 1997, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants for Specified and Per Parcel projects. This Procedural Guide would appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grant as well.

County Counsel has reviewed these actions as to form.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other project funded through the District but are required so that the Department of Parks and Recreation may apply for its Butte Valley Wildflower Sanctuary, Land Acquisition and Pearblossom Natural Area, Land Acquisition Projects.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and to return three conformed copies to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

For Tim Gallagher
Director, Parks and Recreation

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)
County Counsel